

**FLORAL STREET SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes: Thursday, October 3, 2002

In attendance: Joe Sawyer, Jane Lizotte, Deb Martel, Bob Wilson, Gina-Marie Kelly, Kathy Rivenburg, Karmen Bogdesic, Sue Campos, Sandy Fryc, Maribeth Boisvert, Deb Hemdal, and Amy Oddo.

- Mr. Sawyer opened the meeting with a few words of welcome, and introduced new members.
- Kathy Rivenburg served as secretary - members will rotate this position for subsequent meetings.
- Maribeth Boisvert volunteered to co-chair the Council this year with Mr. Sawyer - unanimously approved.
- Sandy Fryc and Deb Hemdal volunteered to serve on the Coordinating Council, along with Mr. Sawyer, Deb Martel and Gina Kelly.
- Members discussed and set norms for future meetings. The following was established:
 - Proposed meetings dates of November 5th, December 3rd, January 7th, February 4th, March 4th, April 1st, April 16th (School Committee Meeting), May 6th, and June 3rd were approved. Meetings will be held at Floral Street School – Media Center – 7:00-8:30pm. Public participation is welcomed.
 - We will follow a consensus model regarding decision making, in order to recommend whatever is important/best for the school/students. Members will “listen to understand” each other’s ideas, opinions, and suggestions, will be respectful of each other’s right to speak freely without interruption, will set aside any/all personal issues or agendas.
 - Minutes of all meetings are public, and will soon be posted on FSS web-site. Council members will actively share information with, and seek out the opinions/concerns of others in the FSS community. All discussions outside of meetings will be respectful of confidentiality, and limited to issues and topics, not personal opinions.
 - The Council is an advisory body that assists the principal in identifying educational needs of the students, in reviewing the annual school budget, and in formulating/evaluating/implementing the SIP.
 - Agendas for upcoming meetings will be distributed in a timely fashion (one-week prior via email, to SC members, and will be published on the FSS web-site for school community).
 - Names and contact information for members of the SC will be posted on the web-site, to encourage communication with FSS community.
- Principal’s Update

Mr. Sawyer reported that he has met with 80% of the new staff (a personal goal of his) to ensure that each staff member has a good induction process, to check-in with them, and help them “get up to speed.” He reiterated that he is “so pleased with the quality of the people that have been brought on board.”
- Grade 5 Satellite Program

Members of the SC, who have students in fifth grade, and a fifth grade teacher member, were asked to share their views of the transition to date. On the positive comments side: “no concerns/problems, great, exceeded expectations, students feel comfortable, and a sincere “thank you” to the teachers who worked so hard to get everything ready. On the negative side: bus issues - swearing. Neutral comments: students not feeling connected to Floral, which was not necessarily viewed as a “bad” thing – just different. Mr. Sawyer was very pleased as well; stating things have run smoothly, not many unknown pieces; some typical internal 5th grade issues that would arise regardless of location. Everyone has worked hard to make this a positive experience, with a few glitches still to be worked out, but “bottom line” is - the students will receive an excellent education.
- All School Meeting

Mrs. Lizotte reported on All School Assemblies, which are happening at FSS, and soon to be held at the MS for 5th graders. AS assemblies will provide opportunities: to celebrate learning both in, and out of school, to recognize/validate accomplishments of individuals/groups of students, to invite guest speakers from the community, and to teach lessons to the student body as a whole (Ex: character traits, such as being respectful).

Respectfully submitted: Kathleen M. Rivenburg